

brown haze whatever at internal contact. Near internal contact the Sun was as bright as could possibly be: so much so that, had there been time to shift, I should have used the darkest shade.

About $\frac{1}{4}$ hour after the planet was on the Sun's disk most of the atmospheric disturbance seemed to have ceased.

The weather before sunrise promised exceedingly well. I rose at two o'clock in the

[Here follow comparisons of chronometers.]

Egress.

	h	m	s	
	10	3	18.2	B. d. forming.
		3	51.0	Light not quite interrupted.
		3	56.0	Link.
		4	47.0	Apparent internal circular contact.
		7	0.0	Can see <i>Venus's</i> limb outside Sun's limb.
				Portion of <i>Venus</i> inside the Sun appears black, that on outside appears brown with slight illumination of limb. Highest power used. Yellow glass.
About	33	45		Planet appeared to be just disappearing.
About	34	0		Telescope failed to work. Probable disappearance.

Remarks.

The observation of Egress was made under totally different circumstances from Ingress. There was no atmospheric disturbance whatever. The Sun's limb and *Venus's* limb were both beautifully defined, and the model was a most perfect representation of them.

On the best Mode of undertaking a Discussion of the Observations of Contact to be made at the approaching Transit of Venus.
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In most discussions of previous Transits of *Venus* the difficulty has been felt that preconceived ideas on the part of those who have made the discussions may have unconsciously influenced the interpretation put upon the language of the observers.

This difficulty can only be obviated by so conducting matters that none of the persons concerned in the discussion can be aware what influence a particular interpretation will have upon the resulting parallax.

With this view I make the following proposals:—

(a) That an International Committee should be appointed whose secretaries or others appointed for the purpose shall receive the observations made by the various observers of the Transit.

(β) That the secretaries or others (who are to have no voice in the after discussion of the results) shall, as soon after the Transit as possible, prepare for publication the descriptions of the observations of contact made by the various observers, precisely in the language of the observers themselves (giving the original language and a translation in French), but without any statement of the names of the observers, of the locality or time of observation—merely bracketing together the successive observations made by the same observer, and dividing the observations into two lists—those of Ingress and those of Egress—and numbering the separate observations 1, 2, 3, &c., for identification. Such a list when published will afford all the data necessary for deciding the “phase” of contact observed, but would afford no information as to the effect which a particular interpretation of any given observation would have upon the resulting parallax.

(γ) On the publication of this list the Committee should be convened for the purpose of selecting all the observations which appear to answer to the given definition of “contact”—or, if necessary, arranging in corresponding groups the various kinds of contact observed. The result of this classification should then be published, but until it has been issued, no one, beyond the secretaries, should have access to the original observations.

(δ) The “phases” having been thus definitively “cast,” the computation of the Greenwich mean time of each observation, and the equations which result from the observations, should be made under the direction of the Committee.

[It is here to be understood that the reduction of the time observations, and determinations of longitude have already been made by the observers themselves, or by the heads of the different national expeditions.]

(ϵ) The Committee should then proceed to combine the equations, dividing them into groups according to the phase observed and the class of telescope employed, and ascertain the relative weight of an equation of each group. The definitive value of the parallax would then be found from the combination of the results of each group, having regard to the weights of these results.

Such a discussion would rest on a broad and impartial basis and would command the acceptance of the scientific world.